QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

State Transport Lorries in the Alwaye-Munnar line.

1. * **Mr. E. K. Kuriyppe** (*Parur, Kunnatnad and Muvattupuzha* cum *Devicolam*): Will the Government be pleased to state :

(*a*) the number of Government Transport lorries plying in the Alwaye-Munnar line ;

(*b*) the tonnage of each ; and

(*c*) the rate fixed per ton ?

Mr. E. G. Salter (*Director of Transport*) :

(*a*) Varies from 8 to 20 per day in accordance with the requirements of the Kannan Devan Hills Produce Co., Ltd.

(*b*) 24 tons load capacity.

(*c*) Bh. Rs. 16-3-0 per ton or approximately 3·75 annas per ton mile.

Employees in the Mascot Hotel.

2. * **Mr. James Fletcher** (*Kalkulam and Vilavankod* cum *Neyyattinkara*) : Will the Government be pleased to state :

(*a*) the number of Government employees in the Mascot Hotel who have been thrown out of job by the handing over of the Hotel to the Spencer & Co., Ltd.; and

(*b*) whether any arrangements have been made for employing them in other departments ?

Rajyasevapravina G. Parameswaran Pillai (*Ag. Chief Secretary to Government*) : (*a*) Four.

(*b*) The matter is under consideration.

Direct appointments by Government.

3. * **Mr. James Fletcher** : Will the Government be pleased to state :

(*a*) the number of appointments to services made directly by the Government during the years 1115, 1116 and 1117 ;

(*b*) whether any member of the Latin Catholic community has been so appointed during those years ; and

(*c*) whether the Government are aware that fully qualified men are available in that community for such appointments ?

Rajyasevapravina G. Parameswaran Pillai ; (*a*), (*b*) and (*c*) The time and labour involved in collecting the information is considered to be out of proportion to its possible utility.

Mr. James Fletcher : May I presume that the honourable member is nervous of divulging the information to be given in answer to certain supplementary questions ?

Rajyasevapravina G. Parameswaran Pillai : I object, Sir, to the insinuations in the question.

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President: Order, order. I see the point of the question and I think that the ground must be cleared. There are certain appointments which Government make or are compelled to make on political grounds. Certain appointments are made in favour of the sons or sons-in-law or dependants of influential or persuasive members of the Legislature or public men who have helped Government during difficult times. Sometimes those requests are complied with, though more often they are not. Officers of Government, retired and in active service, are anxious that their dependants should be provided for. Sometimes it is expedient to comply with their wishes. But very often it is not. Every Government in the world has to exercise certain patronage on political and other analogous grounds. The position of Government is that for political purposes certain appointments have to be made, not on account of efficiency but in the realisation that the persons concerned will have no chance but for the advocacy of or relationship to certain individuals. All these appointments—let me be perfectly frank about this matter—all these appointments are made in the hope and in the expectation that the persons who are appointed would justify their choice. No Government in the world can exist without a certain number of appointments being made for political purposes. To put the matter bluntly, a certain number of appointments are made to encourage people who have got influence and who exercise the influence in aid of Government. If honourable members want to know all the details, the lists will be placed on the table of this House, but the results may be surprising and unlooked for. In consequence of difficulties that arose on account of the non-co-operation and abstention movements, it was necessary for Government to regiment a certain amount of help. There was a large group of people who were anxious not to help but to hinder Government. Certain appointments were made and certain patronage was extended which could not be justified on abstract grounds but solely justifiable as a method of encouragement of loyal support. I suppose that many of the appointments are unjustifiable from that abstract point of view but are justifiable only from the general or political point of view. It is perfectly open to Government to lay on the table of the House a list of such appointments and the officers of Government will be directed to do so if such a course is really desired.

Compound wall of the New Public Offices near the Museum.

4. * **Mr. James Fletcher**: Will the Government be pleased to state:

(*a*) whether the portion of the compound just to the south of the new Public Offices is left as a waste land;

(*b*) whether the said waste land is used as a public latrine by the people living around the place; and

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